

Marshallese language

The **Marshallese language** (Marshallese: new orthography *Kajin Ṃajeḷ* or old orthography *Kajin Majōl* [kɑz˩in˩(i)m˩ɤɑːz˩ɛlɤ], also known as **Ebon**, is a Micronesian language spoken in the Marshall Islands. The language is spoken by about 44,000 people in the Marshall Islands, making it the principal language of the country. There are also roughly 6,000 speakers outside of the Marshall Islands, including those in Nauru and the United States.

There are two major dialects: Rālik (western) and Ratak (eastern).

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Marshallese	
Ebon ^[1]	
 <div>(new orthography) <i>Kajin Ṃajeḷ</i><div>(old orthography) <i>Kajin Majōl</i></div></div>	
Native to	Marshall Islands
Native speakers	(55,000 cited 1979) ^[2]
Language family	<div>Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Micronesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Micronesian Proper<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nuclear Micronesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Marshallese</div>
Writing system	Latin (Marshallese alphabet)
Official status	
Official language in	 Marshall Islands (with English)
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	mh (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1= mh)
ISO 639-2	mah (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID= 277)
ISO 639-3	mah
Glottolog	mars1254 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mars1254) ^[3]

Classification

Marshallese, a Micronesian language, is a member of the Eastern Oceanic subgroup of the Austronesian languages.^[4] The closest linguistic relatives of Marshallese are the other Micronesian languages, including Chuukese, Gilbertese, Kosraean, Nauruan and Pohnpeian. Marshallese shows 33% lexical similarity with Pohnpeian.^[1]

Within the Micronesian archipelago, Marshallese—along with the rest of the Micronesian language group—is not as closely related to the more ambiguously classified Oceanic language Yapese in Yap State, or to the Polynesian outlier languages Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro in Pohnpei State, and even less closely related to the non-Oceanic languages Palauan in Palau and Chamorro in the Mariana Islands.

Variation

The Republic of the Marshall Islands contains 34 atolls that are split into two chains, the eastern Ratak Chain and the western Rālik Chain.^[4] These two chains have different dialects, which differ mainly lexically, and are mutually intelligible.^{[1][4]} The atoll of Ujelang in the west was reported to have "slightly less homogeneous speech",^[1] but it has been uninhabited since 1980.^[5]

The Ratak and Rālik dialects differ phonetically in how they deal with stems that begin with double consonants.^[4] Ratak Marshallese inserts a vowel to separate the consonants, while Ralik adds a vowel before the consonants (and pronounced an unwritten consonant phoneme /j/ before the vowel).^[4] For example, the stem *kkure* 'play' becomes *ikkure* in Rālik Marshallese and *kukure* in Ratak Marshallese.^{[4][6]}

Status

Marshallese is the official language of the Marshall Islands and enjoys vigorous use.^[1] As of 1979, the language was spoken by 43,900 people in the Marshall Islands.^[1] Additional groups of speakers in other countries including Nauru and the United States bring the total number of Marshallese speakers to 49,550^[1] Along with Pohnpeian and Chuukese, Marshallese stands out among Micronesian languages in having tens of thousands of speakers; most Micronesian languages have far fewer.^[7] A dictionary and at least two Bible translations have been published in Marshallese.^[1]

Phonology

Consonants

Marshallese has a large consonant inventory, and each consonant has some type of secondary articulation (palatalization, velarization, or rounding).^[8] The palatalized consonants are regarded as "light", and the velarized and rounded consonants are regarded as "heavy", with the rounded consonants being both velarized and labialized.^[9] (This contrast is similar to that between "slender" and "broad" consonants in Goidelic languages, or between "soft" and "hard" consonants in Russian.) The "light" consonants are considered more relaxed articulations.^[9]

The following are the consonant phonemes of Marshallese:

Consonant phonemes of Marshallese ^[10]							
	Labial		Coronal			Dorsal	
	Palatalized	Velarized	Palatalized	Velarized	Rounded	(Velar)	Rounded
	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy		Heavy	
Stop	p ^ɨ	p ^ʋ	t ^ɨ	t ^ʋ		k	k ^w
Nasal	m ^ɨ	m ^ʋ	n ^ɨ	n ^ʋ	n ^w	ŋ	ŋ ^w
Rhotic			r ^ɨ	r ^ʋ	r ^w		
Lateral			l ^ɨ	l ^ʋ	l ^w		
Glide			j			(ɥ)	w

Marshallese has no voicing contrast in consonants.^[8] However, stops may be allophonically partially voiced ([p → b], [t → d], [k → g]),^[10] when they are between vowels and not geminated. (Technically, partially voiced stops would be [p̤~b], [t̤~d], [k̤~g], but this article uses voiced transcriptions [b], [d], [g] for simplicity.)^[11] Final consonants are often unreleased.^[10]

Glides /j ɥ w/ vanish in many environments, with surrounding vowels assimilating their backness and roundedness.^[12] That is motivated by the limited surface distribution of these phonemes as well as other evidence that backness and roundedness are not specified phonemically for Marshallese vowels.^[12] In fact, the consonant /ɥ/ never surfaces phonetically but is used to explain the preceding phenomenon.^[10] (/j/ and /w/ may surface phonetically in word-initial and word-final positions and, even then, not consistently.^[10])

Bender (1968) explains that it was once believed there were six bilabial consonants because of observed surface realizations, /p p^ɨ p^w m m^ɨ m^w/, but he determined that two of these, /p m/, were actually allophones of /p^ɨ m^ɨ/ respectively before front vowels and allophones of /p^ʋ m^ʋ/ respectively before back vowels.^[13] Before front vowels, the velarized labial consonants /p^ʋ m^ʋ/ actually tend to have rounded (labiovelarized) articulations [p^w m^w], but they remain unrounded on the phonemic level, and there are no distinct /p^w m^w/ phonemes.^{[13][14]} The pronunciation guide used by *Naan* (2014) still recognizes [p m] as allophone symbols separate from [p^ɨ p^ʋ m^ɨ m^ʋ] in these same conditions while recognizing that there are only palatalized and velarized phonemes.^[15] This article uses [p^ɨ p^ʋ m^ɨ m^ʋ] in phonetic transcriptions.

The consonant /t^ɨ/ may be phonetically realized as [t^ɨ], [t̪s^ɨ], [s^ɨ], [t̪ɕ^ɨ], [ɕ], [c], or [ç] (or any of their voiced variants [d^ɨ], [d̪z^ɨ], [z^ɨ], [d̪ʒ], [ʒ], [ʝ], or [j̪]), in free variation.^{[9][10][11]} Word-internally it usually assumes a voiced fricative articulation as [z^ɨ] (or [ʒ] or [j̪]) but not when geminated.^[11] /t^ɨ/ is used to adapt foreign sibilants into Marshallese. In phonetic transcription, this article uses [t^ɨ] and [z^ɨ] as voiceless and voiced allophones of the same phoneme.

Marshallese has no distinct /t^w/ phoneme.

The dorsal consonants /k ŋ k^w ŋ^w/ are usually velar but with the tongue a little farther back [k̠ g̠ ŋ̠ k̠^w g̠^w ŋ̠^w], making them somewhere between velar and uvular in articulation.^[11] All dorsal phonemes are "heavy" (velarized or rounded), and none are "light" (palatalized).^[9] As stated before, the palatal consonant articulations [ç], [j̪], [ç] and [j̪] are treated as allophones of the palatalized coronal obstruent /t^ɨ/, even though palatal consonants are physically dorsal. For simplicity, this article uses unmarked [k g ŋ k^w g^w ŋ^w] in phonetic transcription.

Bender (1969) describes /n^ʋ/ and /n^w/ as being 'dark' *r*-colored, but is not more specific.^[16] The Marshallese-English Dictionary (MED) describes these as heavy dental nasals.^[9]

Consonants /r^ɨ/, /r^ʋ/ and /r^w/ are all coronal consonants and full trills. /r^ʋ/ is similar to Spanish *rr* with a trill position just behind the alveolar ridge, a postalveolar trill [ɾ̠^ʋ],^[16] but /r^ɨ/ is a palatalized dental trill [ɾ̠^ɨ], articulated further forward behind the front teeth.^[11] The MED and Willson (2003) describe the rhotic consonants as "retroflex", but are not clear how this relates to their dental or alveolar trill positions.^{[9][17]} (See retroflex trill.) This article uses [r^ɨ], [r^ʋ] and [r^w] in phonetic transcription.

The heavy lateral consonants /l^ʋ/ and /l^w/ are dark l like in English *feel*, articulated [ɭ] and [ɭ^w] respectively.^[11] This article uses [l^ʋ] and [l^w] in phonetic transcription.

The velarized consonants (and, by extension, the rounded consonants) may be velarized or pharyngealized^[9] like the emphatic consonants in Arabic or Mizrahi Hebrew.

Vowels

Marshallese has a vertical vowel system of just four vowel phonemes, each with several allophones depending on the surrounding consonants.^[18]

On the phonemic level, while Bender (1969) and Choi (1992) agree that the vowel phonemes are distinguished by height, they describe the abstract nature of these phonemes differently, with Bender treating the front unrounded surface realizations as their relaxed state that becomes altered by proximity of velarized or rounded consonants,^[19] while Choi uses central vowel symbols in a neutral fashion to notate the abstract phonemes and completely different front, back and rounded vowel symbols for surface realizations. Bender (1968, 1969), MED (1976) and Willson (2003) recognize four vowel phonemes, but Choi (1992) observes only three of the phonemes as having a stable quality, but theorizes that there may be a historical process of reduction from four to three, and otherwise ignores the fourth phoneme. For phonemic transcription of vowels, this article recognizes four phonemes and uses the front unrounded vowel /æ ε e i/ notation of the MED, following the approach of Bender (1969) in treating the front vowel surface realizations as the representative phonemes.

On the phonetic level, Bender (1968), MED (1976), Choi (1992), Willson (2003) and *Naan* (2014) notate some Marshallese vowel surface realizations differently from one another, and they disagree on how to characterize the vowel heights of the underlying phonemes, with Willson (2003) taking the most divergent approach in treating the four heights as actually two heights each with the added presence (+ATR) or absence (-ATR) of advanced tongue root. Bender (1968) assigns central vowel symbols for the surface realizations that neighbor velarized consonants, but the MED (1976), Choi (1992) and Willson (2003) largely assign back unrounded vowel symbols for these, with the exception that the MED uses [ə] rather than cardinal [ɤ] for the close-mid back unrounded vowel, and Choi (1992) and Willson (2003) use [a] rather than cardinal [ɑ] for the open back unrounded vowel. *Naan* (2014) is the only reference providing a vowel trapezium for its own vowels, and differs especially from the other vowel models in splitting the front allophones of /i/ into two realizations ([ɪ] before consonants and [i] in open syllables), mergin the front allophones of /ε/ and /e/ as [ɛ] before consonants and [e] in open syllables, merging the rounded allophones of /ε/ and /e/ as [o], and indicating the front allophone of /æ/ as a centralized close-mid front unrounded vowel [ë], a realization more raised even than the front allophone of the normally higher /ε/. For phonetic notation of vowel surface realizations, this article largely uses the MED's notation, but uses only cardinal symbols for back unrounded vowels.

Marshallese vowel phonemes and surface realizations

Bender ^[20]				MED ^[9]				Choi ^[21]				Willson ^[22]				Naan ^[15]					
Height	Unrnd.		Rnd.	Height	Phon.	Unrnd.		Rnd.	Height	Phon.	Unrnd.		Rnd.	Height	Unrnd.		Rnd.	Height	Unrnd.		Rnd.
	Frt.	Back				Frt.	Back				Frt.	Back			Frt.	Back			Frt.	Back	
<u>Close</u>	[ɪ]	[ɨ]	[ʊ]	<u>Close</u>	{ɪ}	[ɪ]	[ʉ]	[u]	<u>Close</u>	/ɨ/	[ɪ]	[ʉ]	[u]	+hi, +ATR	[ɪ]	[ʉ]	[u]	[ɪ, ɪ]	[ɨ]	[u]	
<u>Close-mid</u>	[ɪ]	[ɛ]	[ɔ]	Mid	{e}	[e]	[ə]	[o]					+hi, -ATR	[ɪ]	[ɤ]	[ɔ]	[ɛ, e]	[ə]	[o]		
<u>Mid</u>	[e]	[ə]	[o]		{e}	[ɛ]	[ʌ]	[ɔ]	<u>Mid</u>	/ə/	[e]	[ʌ]	[o]	-hi, +ATR	[e]	[ʌ]		[o]		[ʌ]	
<u>Open</u>	[ɛ]	[a]	[ɔ]	<u>Open</u>	{a}	[æ]	[ɑ]	[ɒ]	<u>Open</u>	/e/	[ɛ]	[a]	[ɔ]	-hi, -ATR	[ɛ]	[a]	[ɔ]	[ɛ̃]	[a]	[ɒ]	

Superficially, 12 Marshallese vowel allophones appear in minimal pairs, a common test for phonemicity.^[20] For example, [m^ɨæ] (*mā*, 'breadfruit'), [m^ɨɑ] (*ma*, 'but'), and [m^ɨɒ] (*mō*, 'taboo') are separate Marshallese words.^[20] However, the uneven distribution of glide phonemes suggests that they underlyingly end with the glides (thus /m^ɨæj/, /m^ɨæw/, /m^ɨæw/).^[12] When glides are taken into account, it emerges that there are only 4 vowel phonemes.^[12]

When a vowel phoneme appears between consonants with different secondary articulations, the vowel often surfaces as a smooth transition from one vowel allophone to the other.^[22] For example, *jok* 'shy', phonemically /t^ɨɛk^w/, is often realized phonetically as [t^ɨɛɔk^w].^[22] It follows that there are 24 possible short diphthongs in Marshallese.^[22]

Phoneme	oɨ_oɤ	oɨ_oʷ	oɤ_oɨ	oɤ_oʷ	oʷ_oɨ	oʷ_oɤ
/i/	[ɪ̠]	[ɪ̠ʷ]	[ʉ̠]	[ʉ̠ʷ]	[u̠]	[u̠ʷ]
/e/	[ɛ̠]	[ɛ̠ʷ]	[ə̠]	[ə̠ʷ]	[ɔ̠]	[ɔ̠ʷ]
/ε/	[ɛ̠ʌ]	[ɛ̠ʌʷ]	[ʌ̠]	[ʌ̠ʷ]	[ɔ̠ɛ]	[ɔ̠ʌ]
/æ/	[æ̠]	[æ̠ʷ]	[ɑ̠]	[ɑ̠ʷ]	[ɔ̠æ]	[ɔ̠ɑ]

These diphthongs are the typical realizations of short vowels between two non-glide consonants, but in reality the diphthongs themselves are not phonemic, and short vowels between two consonants with different secondary articulations can be articulated as either a smooth diphthong (such as [ɛ̠ʌ]) or as a monophthong of one of the two vowel allophones (such as [ɛ̠ ~ ʌ]), all in free variation. Bender (1968) also observes that when the would-be diphthong starts with a back rounded vowel [ɒ ɔ o u] and ends with a front unrounded vowel [æ ε e i], then a vowel allophone associated with the back unrounded vowels (notated in this article as [ɑ ʌ ɤ ʉ]) may also occur in the vowel nucleus.^[23] Because the cumulative visual complexity of notating so many diphthongs in phonetic transcriptions can make them more difficult to read, it is not uncommon to phonetically transcribe Marshallese vowel allophones only as one predominant monophthongal allophone, so that a word like [t^ɨɛɔk^w] can be more simply transcribed as [t^ɨɔk^w], in a condensed fashion. Before Bender's (1968) discovery that Marshallese utilized a vertical vowel system, it was conventional to transcribe the language in this manner with a presumed inventory of 12 vowel monophthong phonemes,^[24] and it remains in occasional use as a more condensed phonetic transcription.^{[25][17]} This article uses phonemic or diphthongal phonetic transcriptions for illustrative purposes, but for most examples it uses condensed phonetic transcription with the most relevant short vowel allophones roughly corresponding to Marshallese orthography as informed by the MED.

Some syllables appear to contain long vowels: *naaj* 'future'.^[26] They are thought to contain an underlying glide (/j/, /ɥ/ or /w/), which is not present phonetically.^{[27][28]} For instance, the underlying form of *naaj* is /n^ɨajat^ɨ/.^[26] Although the medial glide is not realized phonetically, it affects vowel quality; in a word like /n^ɨæɥæt^ɨ/, the vowel transitions from [æ] to [ɑ] and then back to [æ], as [n^ɨæ̠ɑ̠æt^ɨ].^[29] In condensed phonetic transcription, the same word can be expressed as [n^ɨɑ̠æt^ɨ] or [n^ɨɑ̠:t^ɨ].^{[24][25][17]}

Phonotactics

Syllables in Marshallese follow CV, CVC, and VC patterns.^[26] Marshallese words always underlyingly begin and end with consonants.^[28] Initial, final, and long vowels may be explained as the results of underlying glides not present on the phonetic level.^[28] Initial vowels are sometimes realized with an onglide [j] or [w] but not consistently:^[30]

- /jæt^ɨ/ → [æ̠t^ɨ ~ jæt^ɨ] 'weave'^[31]

Only homorganic consonant sequences are allowed in Marshallese^[32], including geminate varieties of each consonant, except for glides.^[10] Non-homorganic clusters are separated by vowel epenthesis even across word boundaries.^[32] Some homorganic clusters are also disallowed:^[32]

- Obstruent-obstruent, nasal-nasal, liquid-liquid, nasal-obstruent, and nasal-liquid clusters undergo assimilation of the secondary articulation except if the first consonant is a rounded coronal or a rounded dorsal. Then, the clusters undergo assimilation of the rounded articulation.^[33]

- †Obstruent-liquid and liquid-obstruent clusters besides /l̥ɪv/ and /l̥vɪ/ undergo epenthesis.^[33]
- Liquid-nasal clusters undergo nasal assimilation.^[33]
- Obstruent-nasal clusters undergo epenthesis (if coronal) or nasal assimilation (if non-coronal).^[33]
- Clusters involving any glides undergo epenthesis, including otherwise homorganic clusters of two of the same glide.

The following assimilations are created, with empty combinations representing epenthesis.

Bilabials				Coronals				Dorsals				Secondary					
↓ →	/p/	/m/		↓ →	/t/	/n/	/r/	/l/	↓ →	/k/	/ŋ/	↓ →	/ɔʝ/	/ɔʏ/	/ɔʷ/		
/p/	/pː/	/mː/		/t/	/tː/				/k/	/kː/	/ŋː/	/ɔʝ/	/ɔʝɔʝ/	/ɔʏɔʏ/	/ɔʷɔʷ/		
/m/	/mp/			/n/	/nt/	/nː/	/nr/	/nl/	/ŋ/	/ŋk/		/ɔʏ/					
				/rl/			/rː/	/rl/				/ɔʷ/		/ɔʷɔʷ/			
				/ll/	†			/lr/	/lː/								

The vowel height of an epenthetic vowel is not phonemic as the epenthetic vowel itself is not phonemic, but is still phonetically predictable given the two nearest other vowels and whether one or both of the cluster consonants are glides.^{[28][26]} Bender (1968) does not specifically explain the vowel heights of epenthetic vowels between two non-glides, but of his various examples containing such vowels, none of the epenthetic vowels has a height lower than the highest of either of their nearest neighboring vowels, and the epenthetic vowel actually becomes /ɛ̯/ if the two nearest vowels are both /æ̯/. *Naan* (2014) does not take the heights of epenthetic vowels between non-glides into consideration, phonetically transcribing all of them as a schwa [ə̯].^[15] But when one of the consonants in a cluster is a glide, the height of the epenthetic vowel between them follows a different process, assuming the same height of whichever vowel is on the opposite side of that glide, forming a long vowel with it across the otherwise silent glide.^[23] Epenthetic vowels do not effect the rhythm of the spoken language, and can never be a stressed syllable.^[34] Phonetic transcription may indicate epenthetic vowels between two non-glides as non-syllabic,^[35] using IPA notation similar to that of semi-vowels. Certain Westernized Marshallese placenames spell out the epenthetic vowels:

- Ebeye, from earlier *Ebeje*, from *Epjā*^[36]
- Erikub, from *Ādkup*^[36]
- Kwajalein, from *Kuwajleen*^[36]
- Majuro, from *Mājro*^[36]
- Namorik, from *Nam̧dik*^[36]
- Omelek, from *Kom̧le* ("*Kom̧le*, *Kom̧le*")^[36]
- Rongelap, from *Roŋlap*^[36]
- Rongerik, from *Roŋdik*^[36]
- Ujelang, from *Wūjlaņ*^[36]
- Uliga, from *Wūlka*^[36]
- Utirik, from *Utrōk*^[36]

Epenthetic vowels in general can be omitted without affecting meaning, such as in song or in enunciated syllable breaks. This article uses non-syllabic notation in phonetic IPA transcription to indicate epenthetic vowels between non-glides.

Timing

The short vowel phonemes /a ɜ ɘ ɪ/ and the approximant phonemes /j ɥ w/ all occupy a roughly equal duration of time.^[37] Though they occupy time, the approximants are generally not articulated as glides, and Choi (1992) does not rule out a deeper level of representation.^[38] In particular, /V/ short vowels occupy one unit of time, and /VG̊V/ long vowels (for which /G̊/ is an approximant phoneme) are three times as long.^[39]

As a matter of prosody, each /C/ consonant and /V/ vowel phonemic sequence carries one mora in length, with the exception of /C/ in /CV/ sequences where the vowel carries one mora for both phonemes. All morae are thus measured in /CV/ or shut /C/ sequences.^[40]

- /CVC/ is two morae: /CV-C/. It is also the shortest possible length of a Marshallese word.
- /CVCVC/ is three morae: /CV-CV-C/. Since approximants are also consonants, long vowel sequences of /CVGVC/ are also three morae.
- /CVCCVC/ is four morae: /CV-C-CV-C/.
- Prefixes like *ri-* are /CV-/ sequences occupying only one mora but are attached to words rather than standing as words on their own.
- Suffixes like *-in* are /-VC/ sequences. The syllable itself occupies two morae but adds only one mora to the word because the vowel attaches itself to the last consonant phoneme in the word, changing /-C/ into /-C_̣V-C/.

That makes Marshallese a mora-rhythmed language in a fashion similar to Finnish, Gilbertese, Hawaiian, and Japanese.

Historic sound changes

Marshallese reflexes of Proto Oceanic consonants ^[41]																				
Proto-Oceanic	*mp	*mp,ŋp	*p	*m	*m,ŋm	*k	*ŋk	*ŋ	*y	*w	*t		*s,ŋj	*ns,j	*j	*nt,nd	*d,R	*l	*n	*ɲ
Proto-Micronesian	*p	*pʷ	*f	*m	*mʷ	*k	*x	*ŋ	*y	*w	*t	*T	*s	*S	*Z	*c	*r	*l	*n	*ɲ
Marshallese	/p ^ɨ /	/p ^v /	/f/	/m ^ɨ /	/m ^v /	/k, kʷ/	Ø	/ŋ, ŋʷ/	/j/	/w/	/t ^ɨ /	/t ^ɨ /	/t ^v /	/t ^v /	Ø	/r ^ɨ /	/r ^v , rʷ/	/l ^ɨ , l ^v , lʷ/	/n ^ɨ , n ^v , nʷ/	/n ^ɨ /

Marshallese consonants show splits conditioned by the surrounding Proto-Micronesian vowels. Proto-Micronesian *k *ŋ *r become rounded next to *o or next to *u except in bisyllables whose other vowel is unrounded. Default outcomes of *l and *n are palatalized; they become velarized or rounded before *a or sometimes *o if there is no high vowel in an adjacent syllable. Then, roundedness is determined by the same rule as above.

Orthography

Marshallese is written in the Latin alphabet. There are two competing orthographies.^[42] The "old" orthography was introduced by missionaries.^[42] This system is not highly consistent or faithful in representing the sounds of Marshallese, but until recently, it had no competing orthography.^[43] It is currently widely used, including in newspapers and signs.^[43] The "new" orthography is gaining popularity especially in schools and among young adults and children.^[42] The "new" orthography represents the sounds of the Marshallese language more faithfully and is the system used in the Marshallese–English dictionary by Abo et al., currently the only complete published Marshallese dictionary.^{[42][43]}

Here is the current alphabet, as promoted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It consists of 24 letters.

A Ā B D E I J K L Ĺ M Ṁ N Ṇ Ñ O Q Ŏ P R T U Ū W
a ā b d e i j k l ĺ m ṁ n ṇ ñ o q ŏ p r t u ū w

Orthographic consonants of Marshallese ^[11]								Orthographic vowels of Marshallese ^[11]			
	Labial		Coronal			Dorsal			Unrounded		Rounded
	Palatalized	Velarized	Palatalized	Velarized	Rounded	(Plain)	Rounded		Front		Back
Stop	<i>p</i>	<i>b(w)</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>t</i>		<i>k</i>	<i>k(w)</i>	Close	<i>i</i>	<i>ū</i>	<i>u</i>
Nasal	<i>m</i>	<i>ṁ(w)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>ṇ</i>	<i>ŋ(w)</i>	<i>ñ</i>	<i>ñ(w)</i>	Mid	<i>e</i>	<i>ō</i>	<i>o</i>
Liquid			<i>l d</i>	<i>l r</i>	<i>l(w) r(w)</i>			Open	<i>ā</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>
Glide			<i>e/i/-</i>			-	<i>w/-</i>				

Marshallese spelling is based on pronunciation rather than a phonemic analysis. Therefore, backness is marked in vowels despite being allophonic (it does change the meaning), and many instances of the glides /j ɥ w/ proposed on the phonemic level are unwritten, because they do not surface as consonants phonetically. In particular, the glide /ɥ/, which never surfaces as a consonant phonetically, is always unwritten.

The letter w is generally used only in three situations:

- 1. To mark a rounded consonant (one of *kw* *lw* *ŋw* *ñw* *rw*) or approximant phoneme (*w*) before a vowel that precedes an unrounded consonant phoneme (*a ā e i ō ū*). Even then, if the consonant phoneme comes after a back rounded vowel *o o u* and before another vowel, it is common to write one of *l r* instead of *lw* *ŋw* *rw*, but the rounded dorsal consonants *kw* *ñw* are still written with *w* in these circumstances.
- 2. To mark a velarized bilabial consonant (either *bw* or *ṁw*) before a vowel that precedes a palatalized consonant phoneme (*ā e i*).
- 3. To indicate a [w] glide phonetically surfacing either word-initially or between two vowels.

w is never written out word-finally or before another consonant.

- *Kuwajleen* / *Kuajleen* [k^wuɔz̥ j̥ ě | j̥ ɛ : n j̥] "*Kwajalein*".^[44]

The palatal glide phoneme /j/ may also be written out but only as *e* before one of *a o ō o*, or as *i* before one of either *u ū*. The approximant is never written before any of *ā e i*. A stronger raised palatal glide [ɨ̟], phonemically analyzed as the exotic un-syllabic consonant-vowel-consonant sequence /j̟j̟/ rather than plain /j/, may occur word-initially before any vowel and is written *i*. For historical reasons, certain words like *iŋkwe* may be written as *yokwe*^[45] with a *y*, which does not otherwise exist in the Marshallese alphabet.

One source of orthographic variation is in the representation of vowels. Pure *monophthongs* are written consistently based on vowel quality. However, short *diphthongs* may often be written with one of the two vowel sounds that they contain. (Alternate phonetic realizations for the same phonemic sequences are provided purely for illustrative purposes.)

- *wōtōm* / *otem* [wɔd̟ɔ m̟ j̟ ~ ɔd̟ɔ ɥem̟ j̟ ~ ɔd̟ɔ em̟ j̟] "all; every".^[46]

Modern orthography has a bias in certain spelling choices in which both possibilities are equally clear between two non-approximant consonants.

- *a* is preferred over *ā*.

lap [l̟ɔ ɔp̟ j̟ ~ l̟ɔ ɔæp̟ j̟ ~ l̟ɔ æp̟ j̟] "big", not **āp*^[47]

- *i* is preferred over *ū*.

dik [r̟ j̟ ik̟ ~ r̟ j̟ iɥk̟ ~ r̟ j̟ wk̟] "small", not **dūk*^[48]

- Historically, both *ō* and *e* have been common and sometimes interchangeable. It is still true today with some words. In the new orthography, *ō* is generally preferred over *e* in most such situations.

aelōñ [æ l̟ j̟ ɤŋ ~ æ l̟ j̟ ɤŋ ~ æ l̟ j̟ ɤŋ] "atoll; island; land", not **aeleñ*^[49]
Epatōn [ɛ b̟ j̟ ɔd̟ ɤ ɤ n̟ j̟ ~ ɛ b̟ j̟ æ ɔd̟ ɤ ɤ n̟ j̟] "Ebadon", not **Epaten*^[50]
Kūrijṇōj [k̟ w̟ r̟ j̟ ɨ̟ m̟ ɤ ɤ t̟ j̟ ~ k̟ w̟ r̟ j̟ ɨ̟ m̟ ɤ ɤ t̟ j̟] "Christmas", not **Kūrijṇej*^[51]
Nōl [n̟ j̟ ɤ l̟ ɤ ~ n̟ j̟ ɤ ɤ l̟ ɤ ~ n̟ j̟ ɤ l̟ ɤ] "*Nell*", not **Nej*^[52]

- However, after one of *d j m p* and before one of unrounded *b k l ṁ ṇ ñ r t*, the spelling *e* is preferred over *ō*.

pinjeŋ [p̟ j̟ inz̟ j̟ ɛ l̟ ɤ ~ p̟ j̟ inz̟ j̟ ɛ ɤ l̟ ɤ ~ p̟ j̟ inz̟ j̟ ɤ l̟ ɤ] "pencil", not **pinjōŋ*^[53]

- For the name of the Marshall Islands, the new orthography prefers *e*, but the spelling with *ō* is still found.

Ṃajeḷ or *Ṃajōḷ* [mʷɑːzʲɛlʷ ~ mʷɑːzʲɛʌlʷ ~ mʷɑːzʲʌlʷ], "Marshall Islands"^{[54][55]}

In a syllable whose first consonant is rounded and whose second consonant is palatalized, it is common to see the vowel between them written as one of *a* *ō* *ū*, usually associated with a neighboring velarized consonant:

- *ḶkwōḶ* [pɔɡʷʌtʲ ~ pɔɡʷɹɛtʲ] "August".^[56]
- *Wūḷjaṇ* [wʊzʲɪlʲɑŋ ~ ʊzʲɪlʲʂɑŋ ~ uzʲɪlʲɑŋ] "Ujelang".^[57]

The exception is long vowels and long diphthongs made up of two mora units, which are written with the vowel quality closer to the phonetic nucleus of the long syllable:

- *jouj* [tʲoutʲ] "kindness".^[58]
- *naaj* [nʲɑːtʲ] "will be".^[59]
- *tāākji* [tʷæːgɪzʲi] "taxicab".^[58]

If the syllable is phonetically open, the vowel written is usually the second vowel in the diphthong: the word *bwe* [pʷɛ]^[60] is usually not written any other way, but exceptions exist such as *aelōṇ* (/ʷajəɭʲəŋ/ [ʌelʲɤŋ] "land; country; island; atoll"^[49]), which is preferred over **aelōṇ* because the *a* spelling emphasizes that the first (unwritten) glide phoneme is dorsal rather than palatal.

The spelling of grammatical affixes, such as *ri-* (/rʷi-/^[61]) and *-in* (/--inʲ/) is less variable despite the fact that their vowels become diphthongs with second member dependent on the preceding/following consonant: the prefix *ri-* may be pronounced as any of [rʷɹʷi, rʷɹʷ, rʷɹʷɹʷ] depending on the stem. The term *Ri-Ṃajeḷ* ("Marshallese people") is actually pronounced [rʷɹʷmʷɑːzʲɛlʷ] as if it were *RūṂajeḷ*.^[62]

Display issues

In the most polished printed text, the letters *Ḷ Ṃ Ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ* always appear with unaltered cedillas directly beneath, and the letters *Ā ā Ñ ñ Ō ō Ū ū* always appear with unaltered macrons directly above. Regardless, the diacritics are often replaced by ad hoc spellings using more common or more easily displayable characters. In particular, the *Marshallese-English Online Dictionary* (<http://www.trussel2.com/MOD/>) (but not the print version), or MOD, uses the following characters:^[36]

Standard	MOD
Ḷ Ṃ Ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ	Ḷ Ṃ Ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ
Ḷ Ṇ ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ	Ḷ Ṇ ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ

As of 2019, there are no dedicated precomposed characters in Unicode for the letters *Ṃ Ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ*; they must be displayed as plain Latin letters with combining diacritics, and even many Unicode fonts will not display the combinations properly and neatly. Although *Ḷ Ḷ Ṇ ṇ* exist as precomposed characters in Unicode, these letters *also* do not display properly as Marshallese letters in most Unicode fonts. Unicode defines the letters as having a cedilla, but fonts usually display them with a comma below because of rendering expectations of the Latvian alphabet. However, for some fonts, there is a workaround to display these letters properly if encoded as one of the base letters *L I N n* followed by a zero-width non-joiner character and a combining cedilla character, yielding *Ḷ Ḷ Ṇ ṇ*. This does not always produce a more accurate result if the combining diacritics appear misaligned with their letters.

Both systems already require fonts that display Basic Latin (with *A a B b D d E e I i J j K k L l M m N n O o P p R r T t U u W w*) and Latin Extended-A (with *Ā ā Ñ ñ Ō ō Ū ū*). The standard orthography also requires Combining Diacritical Marks for the combining diacritics. The MOD's alternative letters have the advantage of being neatly displayable as all-precomposed characters in any Unicode fonts that support Basic Latin, Latin Extended-A along with Latin-1 Supplement (with *Ñ ñ*) and Latin Extended Additional (with *Ḷ Ḷ Ṃ Ṇ ṇ Ḷ Ḷ*). If a font comfortably displays both the International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration and the Vietnamese alphabet, it can also display MOD Marshallese.

This chart highlights the display issues in common web fonts and common free Unicode fonts that are known to support standard or MOD Marshallese lettering. Distinct typefaces appear only if the operating environment supports them. Some fonts have combining diacritic alignment issues, and the vast majority of the fonts have the Latvian diacritic issue.

Marshallese letters in various typefaces

Typeface	Standard letters																With "mh" code				With zero-width non-joiner				MOD alternates							
<u>Arial</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Arial Unicode MS</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Calibri</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Cambria</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Candara</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Charis SIL</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Code2000</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Consolas</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Constantia</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Corbel</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Cormorant</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Courier New</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>DejaVu Sans</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>DejaVu Sans Mono</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>DejaVu Serif</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Gentium</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Gentium Basic</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Gentium Book Basic</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Gentium Plus</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Inconsolata</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>JunICODE</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Linux Libertine</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Lucida Sans Unicode</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Noto Sans</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Noto Sans Mono</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Noto Serif</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Open Sans</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Segoe UI</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Source Code Pro</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Source Sans Pro</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Source Serif Pro</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Tahoma</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ
<u>Times New Roman</u>	Ā	ā	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ	Q	q	Ö	ö	Ü	ü	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ḷ	ḷ	Ṁ	ṁ	Ṅ	ṇ	Ñ	ñ

Differences in orthography

The old orthography was still very similar to the new orthography but made fewer phonological distinctions in spelling than the new orthography does. The new orthography attempts phonological consistency while adhering to most of the spelling patterns of the old orthography, especially in regard to vowels and w. It has made the new orthography relatively easy for old orthography users to learn. The phonology of Marshallese was documented by Bender (1969) with written examples using the old orthography. Here are some differences between the new and old orthographies:

- The new orthography uses the cedillaed letters / ɱ ɳ ɔ̣ . The old orthography did not use cedillas and ambiguously wrote them / m n o .
- The new orthography uses p for "light" /pʲ/ and b for "heavy" /pʷ/. The old orthography used b for both.

Compare old *binjel* vs. new *pinjel* [pʲinzʲɛɭʷ], 'pencil'.
- The new orthography consistently uses d for "light" /rʲ/ in all positions. The old orthography often wrote dr before vowels, and r after vowels.

Compare old *Amerka* vs. new *Amedka* [amʲɛrʲɛ̃gɔ], 'United States'.
Compare old *indreo* or *indrio* vs. new *indeeo* [inrʲeːɔ̃], 'forever'.
- Except in certain affixes like -an whose spelling may be fixed, the new orthography spells the vowel monophthong allophone [æ] as ā in all positions. The old orthography had ā, but it was relatively less common, and [æ] was sometimes written e instead.

Compare old *Ebeje* vs. new *Epjā* [ɛbʲɛ̃zʲæ], 'Ebeye'.
- Except in certain affixes like ri- whose the spelling of the vowels may be fixed, the new orthography spells the vowel monophthong allophone [u] as ū in all positions. The old orthography spelled [u] as i between consonants.

Compare old *Kirijmōj* vs. new *Kūrijmōj* [kurʲizʲīmʷɤtʲ], 'Christmas'.
- The new orthography uses only e o ō for allophones of the vowel phoneme /e/. In the old orthography, some words used e o ō, but other words used i u (ū) instead.

Compare old *ailiñ* vs. new *aelōñ* [æɭʲɤŋ ~ æɭʲɛŋ], 'land'.
- The new orthography uses the letter ɔ̣ for the vowel monophthong allophone [ɔ̣] along with many of its related diphthong allophones. The old orthography spelt [ɔ̣] as a between consonants but o at the ends of words.

Compare old *iakwe* vs. new *iqkwe* [ɭɔ̣gʷɛ], 'hello; good bye; love'.
Compare old *mo* vs. new *mɔ̣* [mʲɔ̣], 'taboo'.
- The new orthography tries to consistently write long vowels and geminated consonants with double letters. The old orthography habitually wrote these as single letters.

Compare old *ekatak* vs. new *ekkatak* [ɛkːadʷak], 'study'.
Compare old *jab* vs. new *jaab* [tʲɔ̣ːpʷ], 'no'.
- The word *iqkwe* [ɭɔ̣gʷɛ] ('hello; goodbye; love') and the phrase *iqkwe eok* [ɭɔ̣gʷɛgokʷ] ('hello [to you]') are a special case. The new orthography's rules use *iqkwe eok*, while the old orthography's rules used *iakwe iuk*. However, *yokwe yuk* has been historically more entrenched in both orthographies, but the letter y does not exist in the normal spelling rules of either orthography. That spelling has multilingual significance as well; *yokwe (yuk)* /'jɔ̣kweɪ ('jɔ̣k)/ is also the established spelling for the greeting when used in Marshallese-influenced English and by anglophones in the Marshall Islands.

Bender's orthography

In his 1968 publication *Marshallese Phonology*, linguist Byron W. Bender designed a purely morphophonemic orthography, containing only non-IPA symbols corresponding to consonant phonemes, vowel phonemes and regular reflexes between the dialects, intended for use in dictionaries and language teaching. Besides also appearing in his 1969 tutorial *Spoken Marshallese*,^[63] it appeared in a modified form alongside the "new" orthography in the 1976 *Marshallese-English Dictionary* (MED) to which he contributed. Bender later collaborated with Stephen Trussel when the MED was adapted to website format as the *Marshallese-English Online Dictionary* (MOD), with Bender's orthography appearing in an again-modified form.

Phoneme	/pʲ/	/pʷ/	/tʲ/	/tʷ/	/k/	/kʷ/	/mʲ/	/mʷ/	/nʲ/	/nʷ/	/ŋ/	/ŋʷ/	/rʲ/	/rʷ/	/lʲ/	/lʷ/	/ɭ/	/ɭʷ/	/w/	/æ/	/ɛ/	/e/	/i/			
Bender (1968)	p	b	j	t	k	q	m	m̄	n	n̄	ñ	g	ḡ	d	r	ɣ	l	l̄	ĩ	y	h	w	a	e	&	i
MED (1976)	p	b	j	t	k	q	m	ɱ	n	ɳ	ŋ°	g	g°	d	r	r°	l	ɭ	ɭ°	y	h	w	a	e	ɛ̣	i
MOD	p	b	j	t	k	kʷ	m	ɱ	n	ɳ	ŋʷ	g	gʷ	d	r	rʷ	l	ɭ	ɭʷ	y	h	w	a	e	ɛ̣	i

The MOD's version of Bender's orthography uses under-dot diacritics instead of the cedillas used both by the "new" orthography and by the 1976 MED's version of Bender's orthography, for reasons specific to the MOD's display issues.

In addition to plain sequences of phonemes, Bender's orthography recognizes a few special sequences, many of which relate to regular differences between the Rālik and Ratak dialects of Marshallese.

- {yʲy} is for a "passing over lightly" version of the vowel allophone i that occurs at the beginning of certain words, phonetically pronounced [ɭ̥] and existing on the phonemic level as /j̥j̥/. For example, {yʲyakʷey} is equivalent to *iqkwe* [ɭɔ̣gʷɛ] /j̥j̥j̥æʷɛ/ "hello; goodbye; love".
- {yʲiy} is for a "dwelling upon" version of i that occurs at the beginning of certain words, now generally written ii in the "new" orthography, phonetically pronounced [iː] and existing on the phonemic level as /j̥j̥j̥/, effectively making it identical to {yʲiyy}. An example is {yʲiyayiyɛw}, which is equivalent to *iiāio* [iːæio] /j̥j̥j̥æj̥j̥j̥ew/ "reunion".
- {yʲiy} at the beginning of a word, without apostrophes, indicates a version of i whose reflex differs between the two dialects. In the Rālik dialect, this assumes the "dwelling upon" pronunciation, equivalent to {yʲiy}. In the Ratak dialect, it instead assumes the "passing over lightly" pronunciation, equivalent to {yʲiʲy}. An example is {yʲiyaʲ}, equivalent to *iaʲ* "road":
 - In the Rālik dialect, {yʲiyaʲ} becomes [iːɔ̣ʷ] /j̥j̥j̥j̥æɭʷ/ and is often instead written as *iiāʲ* in the "new" orthography.

- In the Ratak dialect, {yiyal} becomes [ɪalʲ] /jɪjæɫʲ/.
 - {hhV} at the beginning of a word (where "V" can be any vowel) indicates a back unrounded vowel that whose reflex differs between the dialects. In the Rālik dialect, {hhV} becomes {hVhV}, lengthening the vowel. In the Ratak dialect, the second {h} disappears, becoming {hV}, and the vowel remains short. An example is {hhayɛt}, equivalent to aet "yes":
 - In the Rālik dialect, {hhayɛt} becomes [ɑːetʲ] /ʷæɰæjɛtʲ/ and is often instead written as *aaet* in the "new" orthography.
 - In the Ratak dialect, {hhayɛt} becomes [æetʲ] /ʷæjɛtʲ/.
 - {yiwV} at the beginning of a word (where "V" can be any vowel) is usually equivalent to {yiwwV}.
 - {wiwV} at the beginning of a word (where "V" can be any vowel) usually becomes {yiwwV} in the Rālik dialect, but usually becomes {wiwwV} in the Ratak dialect.
- When a Bender orthography spelling begins with a doubled consonant other than {hh}, such as {ṁṁan} "good", its reflex differs between the dialects.
 - In the Rālik dialect, {ṁṁan} becomes {yeṁṁan}, sprouting both a prothetic {y} and a vowel. The dialect generally spells this *eṁṁan* [ɛmʲːanʲ] /jemʲmʲænʲ/ "good" in the "new" orthography, making it homophonous with the phrase *eṁṁan* which means "it is good" in both dialects.
 - In the Ratak dialect, {ṁṁan} becomes {ṁeṁan} with only a prothetic vowel, appearing instead between the two consonants. The dialect generally spells this *ṁōṁan* [mʲːʌmʲːanʲ] /mʲɛmʲænʲ/ "good" in the "new" orthography.
 - In both dialects, the prothetic vowel is equivalent to the first stem vowel unless it is mh, in which case the stem vowel is always paired with the prothetic vowel mh.

Grammar

Morphology

Nouns are not marked as nouns, and do not inflect for number, gender, or case.^[64] Nouns are often verbalized and verbs nominalized without any overt morphological marker.^[64]

Je-n al al in palle.
1pl.in.agr-should sing.trans song of be.covered(=American)
'We should sing American songs.' (Willson 2008)

Marshallese has determiners and demonstratives which follow the noun they modify.^[65] These are marked for number, and in the plural also encode a human/nonhuman distinction.^[66] For example, in the singular *pinjel eo* 'the pencil' and *laddik eo* 'the boy' take the same determiner, but in the plural *pinjel ko* 'the pencils' and *laddik ro* have different determiners.^[66] Indefinites are an exception; in the singular they are expressed with the word *juon* 'one' before the noun (e.g. *juon al* 'a song'), and there is no plural indefinite determiner.^[67] The Marshallese demonstrative system has five levels: near the speaker (sg. *e* / pl. human *rā* / pl. nonhuman *kā*), near the speaker and listener (*in* / *rein* / *kein*), near the listener (*ṁe* / *raṁe* / *kaṁe*), away from both speaker and listener (*eṇ* / *raṇ* / *kaṇ*), and distant but visible (*uwēo* / *roro* / *koko*).^[66]

Marshallese possesses two sets of 1st and 2nd person singular pronouns, known as "absolute" or "emphatic" pronouns and as "objective" pronouns.^[68] Marshallese 1st person plurals mark for clusivity.^[68] Third person objective pronouns may only be used for humans; nonhumans instead take a null pronoun.^[68]

E-ar deñōt er.
3s.agr-T(past) slap.trans 3pl.obj
'He slapped them (human).' (Willson 2008)

E-ar deñōt-i.
3s.agr-T(past) slap.trans-obj
'He slapped them (nonhuman).' (Willson 2008)

The emphatic pronouns serve as subjects of equational sentences, as complements of prepositions, in order to emphasize objects, in coordination structures, and with topicalized or focused subjects.^[69] It is common in Oceanic languages for a special type of pronoun to be used in equational sentences and for topicalization or focus.^[69]

Ña rikaki.
1s.emph teacher
'I am a teacher.' (Willson 2008)

Ña i-j yokwe ajiri ro nej-ū.
1s.emph 1s.agr.T(pres) love child the.pl.h cher.poss-1s.gen
'Me, I love my children.' (Willson 2008)

Marshallese pronouns^[68]

Person		absolute / emphatic	objective
s	1	<i>ña</i>	<i>eō</i>
	2	<i>kwe</i>	<i>eok</i>
	3	<i>e</i>	
pl	1	<i>inc</i>	<i>kōj</i>
	1	<i>exc</i>	<i>kōm</i>
	2	<i>koṁ</i> (Rālik) <i>koṁi</i> (Ratak)	
	3	<i>er</i>	

Syntax

Marshallese, similarly to many Micronesian languages, divides sentences into two types: predicational sentences and equational sentences.^[70] Predicational sentences have SVO word order and a main verb.^[70]

E-j kajañjañ kita.
3rdS-PRES play guitar.
'He plays guitar.' (Willson 2002)

In equational sentences, both the subject and predicate are noun phrases:^[70]

Nuknuk eo e-aibujuij.

Dress DET 3rdS-beautiful.
'The dress is beautiful.' (Willson 2002)

Vocabulary

Marshallese vocabulary ^[36]		
(<i>Rālik</i>) <i>aaet</i> ; (<i>Ratak</i>) <i>aet</i>	[aːetʷ, aetʷ]	<u>Yes</u>
<i>aelōñ</i>	[ael̥ʲɤŋ]	<u>Atoll</u> , or island; the word for land in general
<i>ej et aṃ mour</i>	[ɛzʲeːdʷaːmmʲourʷ]	How are you? (Literally, "How is your life doing?") Notice that the <i>ṃ</i> assimilates before the <i>m</i> .
<i>eṃṃan</i>	[ɛmmʷanʲ]	(It) is good.
<i>enana</i>	[ɛnʲaːnʲa]	(It) is bad.
<i>iḳkwe</i> ; <i>yokwe</i>	[iḳgwe]	Hello, goodbye and love, similar to the Hawaiian <i>aloha</i> ; also an expression of sympathy. Its literal, archaic meaning is "You are a rainbow". ^[45]
<i>irwōj</i> ; <i>irooj</i>	[irʷ(u)wɤtʲ, irʷoːtʲ]	<u>Iroij</u> , the various <u>paramount chieftains</u> of <u>Marshallese culture</u>
<i>jaab</i>	[tʲaːpʲ]	No.
<i>koṃṃool tata</i>	[kʷɔmmʷɔːltʷaːdʷa]	Thank <u>you</u> very much. <i>Koṃṃool</i> alone means "thank you".
<i>kōn jouj</i>	[kɤnzʲoutʲ]	You're welcome. Literally "for kindness".
<i>Kūrjin</i>	[kurʷ(i)zʲinʲ]	<u>Christian</u> : The majority <u>religion</u> of the Marshall Islands

Cardinal numbers

This includes the cardinal numbers one through ten in the Rālik dialect. Where Ratak forms differ, they are listed in parentheses.

- 1. *juon* [tʲʊɔnʲ]
- 2. *ruo* [rʷɤ]
- 3. *jilu* [tʲil̥ʲʊ]
- 4. *emān* [ɛmʲænʲ]
- 5. *ḷalem* [lʷal̥ʲemʲ]
- 6. *jiljino* [tʲizʲinʲɔ] (the *l* is silent^[71])
- 7. *jimjuon* [tʲimʲ(i)zʲʊɔnʲ]
- 8. *ralitōk* [rʷaːliːdʷɤk] (*ejino*)
- 9. *ratimjuon* [rʷaːdʷimʲ(i)zʲʊɔnʲ] (*ejilimjuon*)
- 10. *joñoul* [tʲoŋʷoulʲ]

Months

- 1. *Jānwōde* [tʲænʲ(ɔ)wɔrʷɛ], 'January'
- 2. *Pāpode* [pʲæbʲɔːrʷɛ], 'February'
- 3. *ḷaaj* [mʷaːtʲ], 'March'
- 4. *Eprōl* [ɛbʲ(ɛ)rʷɤlʷ], 'April'
- 5. *Māe* [mʲæe], 'May'
- 6. *Juun* [tʲʊːnʲ], 'June'
- 7. *Juḷae* [tʲʊːlʷaːɛ], 'July'
- 8. *Ḷkwōj* [ɔgʷɤtʲ], 'August'
- 9. *Jeptōṃba* [tʲɛbʲ(ɛ)dʷɤmbʷa], also *Jebtōṃba* [tʲɛbʷ(ɤ)dʷɤmbʷa], 'September'
- 10. *Oktoba* [wɔg(ɤ)dʷɔːbʷa], 'October'
- 11. *Nobōṃba* [nʲɔːbʷɤmbʷa], also *Nopeṃba* [nʲɔːbʲɛmbʷa], 'November'
- 12. *Tijeṃba* [tʷiːzʲɛmbʷa], 'December'

Weekdays

- 1. *Jabōt* [tʲɔbʷɤtʷ], 'Sunday; Sabbath'
- 2. *ḷande* [mʷanrʲɛ], 'Monday'
- 3. *Juje* [tʲʊːzʲɛ], 'Tuesday'
- 4. *Wōnje* [wɤnzʲɛ], 'Wednesday'
- 5. *Taije* [tʷaːizʲɛ], 'Thursday'
- 6. *Bōraide* [pʷɤrʷaːirʲɛ], also *Bōḷaide* [pʷɤlʷaːirʲɛ], also *Būḷaide* [pʷɤlʷæirʲɛ], 'Friday'
- 7. *Jādede* [tʲæɤrʲɛːrʲɛ], 'Saturday'

Marshallese atolls and islands

- *Majej* or *Majōj* [mʲɑːzʲɛlʲ], 'Marshall Islands'
 - *Ratak* [rʲɑːdʲɑk], 'Ratak Chain'
 - *Aelok* [ɑelʲokʷ], 'Ailuk Atoll'
 - *Arno* [ɑnnʲɔ], 'Arno Atoll'
 - *Aur* [ɑurʲ], 'Aur Atoll'
 - *Ādkup* [æɾʲ(u)ɡʷupʲ], 'Erikub Atoll'
 - *Bokaak* or *Bok-ak* [pʲɔɡwɑːk], 'Bokak (Taongi) Atoll'
 - *Jām̄o* [tʲæːmʲɔ], 'Jemo Island'
 - *Likiep* [lʲigieɾʲ], 'Likiep Atoll'
 - *Mājeej* [mʲæzʲɛːtʲ] or *Mājej* [mʲæzʲɛːtʲ], 'Mejit Island'
 - *Mājro* [mʲæzʲ(e)rʲɔ], 'Majuro Atoll'
 - *Jarōj* [tʲɑrʲʌtʲ], 'Djarrit'
 - *Łora* [lʲɔːrʲɑ], 'Laura'
 - *Teļap* [tʲɛːlʲɑpʲ], 'Delap'
 - *Wūlka* [wʷlʲ(i)ɡɑ], 'Uliga'
 - *Mile* [mʲilʲɛ], 'Mili Atoll'
 - *M̄ajo-eļap* [mʲɑlʲɔːɛlʲɑpʲ], 'Maloelap Atoll'
 - *Na-dikdik* [nʲɑːrʲig(i)rʲik], 'Knox Atoll'
 - *Pikaar* [pʲigɑːrʲ], 'Bikar Atoll'
 - *Tōkā* [tʲʌɡæ], 'Toke (Taka) Atoll'
 - *Utrōk* [wudʲ(w)rʲʌk], 'Utirik Atoll'
 - *Wōjjā* [wʌttʲæ], 'Wotje Atoll'
 - *Rālik* [rʲæːlʲik], 'Ralik Chain'
 - *Aelōñin-ae* [ɑelʲʌŋinʲɑːɛ], 'Ailinginae Atoll'
 - *Aelōñļapļap* [ɑelʲʌŋ(ʲ)lʲɑbʲ(ɛ)lʲɑpʲ], 'Ailinglaplap Atoll'
 - *Āne-wātak* [æɾʲeːwæːdʲɑk], also *Ānewetak* [æɾʲeːwɛːdʲɑk], 'Enewetak (Eniwetok) Atoll'
 - *Ellep* [ɛllʲɛɾʲ], 'Lib Island'
 - *Epoon* [ɛbʲɔːnʲ], 'Ebon Atoll'
 - *Jālwōj* [tʲæɾʲ(o)wʲtʲ] or *Jālooj* [tʲæɾʲoːtʲ], 'Jaluit Atoll'
 - *Jebwad* [tʲɛbʲ(ɔ)warʲ], 'Jabor Island'
 - *Jebat* [tʲɛbʲɑtʲ], 'Jabat (Jabot, Jabwot) Island'
 - *Kōle* [kʲɔlʲɛ], 'Kili Island'
 - *Kuwajleen* [kʷuɰɑzʲ(ɛ)lʲɛːnʲ], 'Kwajalein Atoll'
 - *Epjā* [ɛbʲ(ɛ)zʲæ], also *Ibae* [ibʲɑːɛ], 'Ebeye Island'
 - *Lae* [lʲɑːɛ], 'Lae Atoll'
 - *Naṛdik* [nʲɑmʲ(wi)rʲik], 'Namdrik (Namorik) Atoll'
 - *Naṛo* [nʲɑmʲɔ], 'Namu Atoll'
 - *Pikinni* [pʲiginnʲi], 'Bikini Atoll'
 - *Roñdik* [rʷɔŋʷ(w)rʲik], 'Rongerik (Rongdrik) Atoll'
 - *Roñļap* [rʷɔŋʷ(ɔ)lʲɑpʲ], 'Rongelap Atoll'
 - *Wōtto* [wʌttʲɔ], 'Wotho Atoll'
 - *Wūjae* or *Ujae* [wʷzʲɑːɛ], 'Ujae Atoll'
 - *Wūjlañ* or *Ujlañ* [wʷzʲ(i)lʲɑŋ], 'Ujelang Atoll'
 - *Āneen-kio* [æɾʲeːnʲ(i)ɡiɔ], 'Wake (Enenkio) Atoll' (claimed by the Marshall Islands, administered by the United States)

Other countries and places

- *Amedka* [ɑmʲɛɾʲ(ɛ)ɡɑ], 'United States (America)'
 - *Awai* [ɑwɑːi], 'Hawaii', where a Marshallese diaspora lives
 - *Kalboonea* [kɑlʲ(ʌ)bʲɔːnʲɛɑ], 'California', where a Marshallese diaspora lives
 - *Qkōnjɔ* [ɔɡwʌnzʲɔ], 'Arkansas', where a large Marshallese diaspora lives
- *Aujtōrōlia* [ɑuttʲʌrʲʌlʲiɑ], 'Australia'
- *Eijia* [eizʲiɑ], 'Asia'

- **Jaina** [tʰɑːinɪɑ], also **Jāina** [tʰæinɪɑ], also **Jeina** [tʰeinɪɑ], 'China'
- **Jepaan** [tʰɛbɪɑːnɪ], also **Nibboñ** [nɪppɪɔŋʷ], 'Japan (Nippon)', former colonial ruler
- **Kuria** [kʷurɪɑ], 'Korea'
- **Pilipin** [pɪlɪbɪnɪ], 'Philippines', former colonial administrator under Spanish rule
- **Rojia** [rʷoːzɪɑ], 'Russia'
- **Taiwan** [tʰɑːiwanɪ], 'Taiwan'
- **Iñlen** [in(i)ɪɛnɪ], 'England'
- **Jaŋuwa** [tʰɑːmɪuːwɑ], 'Samoa'
- **Jāmne** [tʰæmɪ(ɛ)nɪɛ], 'Germany', former colonial ruler
- **Jipein** [tʰibɪɛinɪ], 'Spain', former colonial ruler
- **Ṃaikronijia** [mɪɑːig(u)rɪɔnɪzɪɑ], 'Micronesia'
 - **Karolāin** [karɪɔːlɪæinɪ], 'Caroline Islands'
 - **Bōlau** [pɪʌlɪɑːu], also **Bōlao** [pɪʌlɪɑːɔ], 'Palau'
 - **FSM** [ɛbɪɛzɪɛmɪ], 'Federated States of Micronesia (F.S.M.)'
 - **Boonpe** [pɪoːnɪ(e)bɪɛ], 'Pohnpei (Ponape)'
 - **laab** [ɪɑːpɪ], 'Yap'
 - **Kujjae** [kʷuttɪɑːɛ], also **Kōjae** [kʌzɪɑːɛ], 'Kosrae (Kusaie)'
 - **Ruk** [rɪukʷ], 'Chuuk (Truk)'
 - **Kilbōt** [kilɪ(i)bɪʌtɪ], 'Kiribati (Gilbert Islands)'
 - **Ṃadianna** [mɪæɪɪɑːnnɪɑ], 'Mariana Islands'
 - **Jāipaan** [tʰæibɪɑːnɪ], 'Saipan'
 - **Kuwaam** [kʷuwaːmɪ], 'Guam'
 - **Nawōdo** [nɪɑːwʌrɪɔ], 'Nauru (Naoero)'
- **Mejjiko** [mɪɛttɪigɔ], 'Mexico', former colonial administrator under Spanish rule
- **Nijilōn** [nɪuːzɪiːlɪʌnɪ], 'New Zealand'
- **Nukne** [nɪugʷ(u)nɪɛ], also [nɪugʷ(u)nɪɛ], 'New Guinea', former colonial administrator under German rule
- **Piji** [pɪiːzɪɪ], 'Fiji'
- **Tubaļu** [tʰuːbɪɑːlɪu], 'Tuvalu'

Text examples

Modern orthography

Here is the Hail Mary in standard Marshallese orthography:

*Iḷkwe eok Maria, kwo lōñ kōn
 menin jouj;
 Irooj ej pād ippaṃ.
 Kwo jeraṃṃan iaan kōrā raṇ im
 ejeraṃṃan ineen Iḷjiōṃ, Jesus.
 O Maria kwojarjar, jinen Anij,
 kwōn jar kōn kem rijjerawiwi.
 Kiiō im ilo iien
 amwōj mej. Amen.*

Older orthography

Here is the Lord's Prayer from the 1982 Marshallese Bible, which uses the older orthography (most commonly used today):

*Jememuuj iljōñ:
 En kwojarjar im utiej etam;
 En itok am Ailiñ;
 Kimin kōmōnmōn ankilam ilōl einwōt air kōmmōn ilōn.
 Letok ñōn kim kijim rainin.
 Jolok amuij bwid ibbam,
 Einwōt kimij julok bwid ko an ro jet ibbem.
 Am melejjoñe kim en jab ellā jen joñan,
 Ak kwon kejbarok kim jen Eo Enana.
 Bwe am Ailiñ im kajur im aibuijuij indrio, Amen.*

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External links

- Marshallese language (https://curlie.org/Science/Social_Sciences/Linguistics/Languages/Natural/Austronesian/Malayo-Polynesian/Eastern/Marshallese/) at Curlie
- *Naan*, a free Marshallese–English Dictionary for beginner/intermediate learners of both languages (<https://sites.google.com/site/lalenaan/>)
- Marshallese–English Online Dictionary (<http://www.trussel2.com/MOD/>)
- Marshallese Phrasebook on the website for the Republic of Marshall Islands (<https://web.archive.org/web/20051110235126/http://www.rmiembassyus.org/Marshallese%20Phrasebook.htm>) lists the Marshallese word for the Marshallese language as *kajin Majöl*
- Peace Corps Marshall Islands *Marshallese Language Training Manual* (<http://www.linguistics.berkeley.edu/~rscook/pdf/PCMLT-JejeinM.pdf>) (PDF, 275 KB; instead of macrons uses trema on vowels and tilde on *n*, and underlines instead of cedillas)
- Marshallese Spelling Reforms (<http://faroutliers.blogspot.com/2004/08/marshallese-spelling-reforms.html>) article in the blog, "Far Outliers"
- Kaipuleohone has recordings of stories from the 1950s (<https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/27416>) as well as index cards of plant and animal words
- Materials on Marshallese are included in the open access Arthur Capell collections (AC1 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC1>) and AC2 (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC2>)) held by Paradisec

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